

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 161354

60  
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /017 R

66619  
DRAFTED BY AF/E GDKULICK  
APPROVED BY AF/E WBCOOTE  
----- 118892

R 092130Z JUL 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161354

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 17697 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA  
KHARTOUM MOGADISCIO ASMARA LONDON NAIROBI JIDDA CAIRO JUL 08

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17697

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, FT, FR  
SUBJECT: QUAI REFLECTIONS ON TFAI

REF: PARIS 13672 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION JULY 7, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR  
AFRICA COMBAL MADE OBEISANCE TO "UNCHANGED" OFFICIAL  
POLICY TOWARDS THE TFAI, I.E., FRANCE WILL FOLLOW THE  
"POPULAR WILL" IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE  
TERRITORY, AND THEN PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS CURRENT  
CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR MARKEDLY ALTER-  
ING FRENCH POLICY THERE.

2. COMBAL NOTED THAT THE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT, AT ITS  
OWN INITIATIVE, HAD RECENTLY SENT MISSIONS TO A NUMBER  
OF AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES. THE PURPOSE OF THESE  
MISSIONS WAS TO EXPLAIN WHY ALI AREF'S GOVERNMENT,  
WHILE DESIRING EVENTUAL TFAI INDEPENDENCE, DOES NOT  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 161354

WISH TO PRESS THE ISSUE NOW. COMBAL SAID THAT EVEN THE  
MOST CONSERVATIVE AFRICAN-ARAB LEADERS TOLD THE MISSIONS  
THAT THEY COULD NOT, GIVEN OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE POLICIES,  
SUPPORT ANYTHING LESS THAN IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE FOR

THE TERRITORY. HE IMPLIED THAT ALI AREFS FOLLOWERS, SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY THIS RESPONSE, HAVE BEGUN SERIOUSLY TO REEXAMINE THEIR OWN POSITIONS. THE FACT THAT THE MODERATE FRENCH PRESS, TOO, IS CALLING FOR

EARLY INDEPENDENCE WILL ALSO AFFECT OPINION IN DJIBOUTI AND IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, COMBAL ADDED.

3. BEFORE ANY CHANGE OF STATUS CAN BE MADE, COMBAL CONTINUED, THE PEOPLE OF THE TFAI MUST AGREE BOTH THAT THEY WANT INDEPENDENCE AND ON AN ACCEPTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. ALI AREF IS DEFINITELY PERSONNA NON GRATA TO THE ISSAS. SHOULD THE INHABITANTS, AS NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY, SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS, THE NEXT QUESTION WOULD BE ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI ACQUIESCE IN AN INDEPENDENT TFAI.

4. COMBAL THOUGHT THAT THE ONLY POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ACCEPTANCE (AND HE WAS HIGHLY DUBIOUS THAT SOMALIA WOULD EVER REALLY ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION OTHER THAN THE INCORPORATION OF THE TFAI) WAS IN A LARGER FRAMEWORK. HE OBSERVED THAT NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND EVEN THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN, WANT STABILITY IN THE AREA AND MIGHT BE ABLE USEFULLY TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE PARTIES. FURTHER AFIELD, BOTH THE OAU AND THE ARAB LEAGUE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE, HE SPECULATED.

5. CURRENTLY BESET BY COMORIAN INDEPENDENCE PROBLEMS, COMBAL DESCRIBED THEM AS NOTHING COMPARED WITH DJIBOUTI, THE FUTURE STABILITY OF WHICH IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO WESTERN INTERESTS IN THE HORN AND THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS STRATEGIC INTEREST THAT FRANCE HOPES SOMEHOW TO MAINTAIN A BASE AT  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 161354

DJIBOUTI.

6. ON A MORE HOPEFUL NOTE, COMBAL DOUBTED THAT A CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO IS IMMINENT. HE BELIEVED THAT THE QUESTION OF TFAI INDEPENDENCE WOULD NOT BE PRESSED AT THIS YEAR'S UNGA. HOWEVER, HE CONCLUDED, TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO SOLVE THIS INTRACTABLE PROBLEM.

7. COMMENT: THE RETHINKING ON THE TFAI DESCRIBED IN THE REFERENCE IS PICKING UP SPEED.  
RUSH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LIMITATIONS OF HOSTILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE161354  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF/E GDKULICK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750237-0629  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197507104/baaaaojt.tel  
**Line Count:** 106  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, FT, FR, (HANFERE, ALI MIRAH)  
**To:** SANA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006